GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:479
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
INCREASING NUMBER OF HAJ PILGRIMS
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to increase the number of Haj pilgrims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many States have requested for an increase of their Haj quota;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) The Government of India and the Government of Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed an agreement under which 137,000 Indian pilgrims would perform Haj in 2006 in comparison to the agreement signed for Haj in 2005 for 127,000 Indian pilgrims.

(c) &(d) The following States have requested for increase of their Haj quota fixed for the State by the Haj Committee of India:

State	Quota fixed by Haj Committee of India for Haj 2006	Quota requested by the State
Andhra Pradesh	6047	6385
Chattisgargh	354	595
Jammu& Kashmir	5880	9000
Kerala	6806	13002
Maharashtra	8889	11452
Orissa	432	470
Tamil Nadu	3004	3900
Uttaranchal	876	1404

(e) The Government of India has noted these requests.